

**WASTE DISPOSAL****Where Does It Go From Here?****Grade Level : 5****Subjects:**

Science 3.2, 1.4, 2.4  
 Social Studies 11.1

**Time:**

two classes

**Setting:**

classroom

**Materials:**

crayons and paper for  
 maps

**Skills:**

communications,  
 formulating models

**Vocabulary:**

dump  
 landfill  
 sanitary landfill

**Source:**

Watauga County  
 Recycling Curriculum  
 Committee

**Summary:** This activity traces the path of waste after it leaves the classroom to the landfill. It defines and describes what a landfill is, and how it is different from a trash dump. The lesson also asks what happens when any part of the path from classroom to landfill is unavailable.

**Objective:** The student will:

- plan and draw and illustrate a map showing the path of trash from class room to landfill.
- compare and contrast trash dump and landfill.
- write a paper describing a possible solution for the absence of local landfill in which to dump trash.

**Background:** In order to appreciate a clean environment, it is necessary to realize that many steps are involved in waste disposal.

**Leading Question:** What happens to the trash after it leaves the classroom?

**Procedure:**

Day One - Ask the leading question and then get response from class. Be sure to include: dumpster, trash truck, landfill. Ask why we don't just dump the trash out in the woods. List the problems: smell, disease, danger from glass, nails, poison, etc., in the trash; messy; ruin the woods; trash would end up everywhere; water pollution; etc. Describe landfills, how they are alike/different from dumps. Have the kids draw and illustrate the path from the classroom to the landfill.

Day Two - Review the path that you established on Day 1. Then ask "What would happen if we didn't have one part of the path?" Take out: the dumpster, the trash truck, and the landfill, one at a time, and have the kids brainstorm possible solutions.

**What Now?**

This lesson can lead to a trip to the landfill. For some ideas about a trip to the landfill, see "To The Landfill!" page 4.17.

